

House Resolution No. 301

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State organizations that are dedicated to improving the quality of life in local communities and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, in the spring of 1978, St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley started a program using sign language interpreters to accommodate hearing impaired individuals in a post secondary educational setting; and

Whereas, during this revolutionary program, a young technical director by the name of John Heidger was working toward a Master's degree at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville; and

Whereas, John Heidger was intrigued by the visual language that infiltrated the campus at Florissant Valley and explored the history of this language in a theatrical setting; and

Whereas, The Deaf Theatre Guild, a small group who put on small vignettes for their community, was asked to perform at Florissant Valley on an experimental bases, at which time a new art form was born in St. Louis; and

Whereas, for the past thirty years, the Deaf Theatre has flourished at Florissant Valley, presenting dramas, comedies, mysteries, and musicals that have provided a full spectrum of stage entertainment; and

Whereas, in honor of this accomplishment, the Florissant Valley Theatre of the Deaf will present the Thirtieth Anniversary production of Barefoot in the Park on February 15, 2008, at the Terry M. Fischer Theatre in Ferguson, Missouri:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history associated with Florissant Valley Theatre of the Deaf and to convey to all of those involved in this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes for continued success; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Florissant Valley Theatre of the Deaf.

Offered by _____
Representative Theodore Hoskins
District No. 80

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session,
do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 301, adopted January 29, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker